

REMARKS:

I. Introduction

In the Office Action mailed on November 12, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 3, 7, 8, 10 to 12, and 15 to 17. Claims 4 to 6 and 9 are withdrawn from consideration. The present amendment cancels no claims, amends claim 1, and adds new claims 18 to 21. Accordingly, claims 1 to 12, and 15 to 21 are now pending in this application.

II. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

(a) The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caplette (US 6,012,257) in view of Cross et al. (US 2,258,973) and Bush (US 2,591,048).

The Examiner stated that Caplette shows the second perimeter channel is wider than a thickness of the second glazing panel (figure 3). Claim 1 has been amended to “wherein said second perimeter channel is wider than a thickness of said second glazing panel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel.” As best seen in FIG. 2, Caplette clearly shows that the seals are resiliently deformed by the panels such that the channels are the same width as the panels when the panels are located in the channels. Neither Cross et al. or Bush teaches that the width of the channel should be wider than the panel when the panels are located in the channels. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to include “a mouth of said second perimeter channel is wider than a bottom of the second perimeter channel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel.” As best seen in FIG. 2, Caplette clearly shows that neither channel has a mouth wider than its base when the panels are located in the channels. Neither Cross et al. or Bush teaches that the channel should have a mouth wider its base when the panels are located in the channels. It is noted that new dependent claim 18 also specifically points out that the second glazing panel does not elastically deform the inner wall and the outer lip of said second perimeter channel when the when the second glazing panel is located in the second perimeter channel. As best seen in FIGS. 2 and 3, the panel of Caplette clearly elastically deforms the inner wall and outer lip when the panels are located in the channels.

Independent claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each include the limitations of “wherein said second perimeter channel is wider than a thickness of said second glazing panel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel” and “a mouth of said second perimeter channel is wider than a bottom of the second perimeter channel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel.” No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by amended claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

(b) The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 3, 7, 8, 10 to 12, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (US 5,131,194) in view of Bargados et al. (US 5,809,707), Bush (US 2,591,048), and Cross et al. (US 2,258,973).

The Examiner stated that Anderson et al. shows the second perimeter channel is wider than a thickness of the second glazing panel. Claim 1 has been amended to “wherein said second perimeter channel is wider than a thickness of said second glazing panel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel.” As best seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, Caplette clearly shows that the seals 75,76,77 are resiliently deformed by the panels such that the channels are the same width as the panels when the panels are located in the channels. Neither Bargados, Cross et al. or Bush teaches that the width of the channel should be wider than the panel when the panels are located in the channels. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to include “a mouth of said second perimeter channel is wider than a bottom of the second perimeter channel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel.” As best seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, Anderson et al. clearly shows that neither channel has a mouth wider than its base when the panels are located in the channels. Neither Bargados, Cross et al. or Bush teaches that the channel should have a mouth wider its base when the panels are located in the channels.

Independent claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each

include the limitations of “wherein said second perimeter channel is wider than a thickness of said second glazing panel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel” and “a mouth of said second perimeter channel is wider than a bottom of the second perimeter channel when said first glazing panel is located in said first perimeter channel and said second glazing panel is located in said second perimeter channel.” No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by amended claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

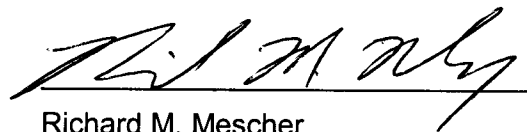
(c) The Examiner rejected dependent claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (US 5,131,194) in view of Bargados et al. (US 5,809,707), Bush (US 2,591,048), and Cross et al. (US 2,258,973) and further in view of Gasteuger (US 3,720,026).

Dependent claim 15 is allowable as depending from allowable independent claim 1 as discussed above and for novel and non-obvious matter contained therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3915.

Respectfully submitted,



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